

As a member of the communication profession, an educator and a citizen, I am alarmed at the prospect of more consolidation of media ownership. What we are experiencing now in the mainstream media coverage of the war on Iraq with the virtual absence of analysis, thoughtful commentary and historical perspective and the elimination of questioning and dissent is unhealthy to any democracy, especially one which has, in the past prided itself on the strength of the 1st Amendment. Now corporations and government merge as one voice of control over message. There is no longer an independent, free 4th Estate to check the "facts" issued by government or demonstrate any critical thinking. This is the subtext being taught the citizenry of this country--don't question anything that the powers that be say or do. What a shameful state of affairs we have come to in this country when profits are so much more important than any other value including free speech and a free press. More shocking? The television press seems too unaware or too scared to do anything about it!